

**Columbia River Toxics Reduction Working Group
Summary of February 7, 2008 Meeting
Hosted by USGS, Portland, OR**

Participants

Helen Rueda, EPA
Ashley Kaiser, URS
Lyndal Johnson, NOAA
Greg Fuhrer, USGS
Jennifer Morace, USGS
Dave McBride, WADOH
Jay Davis, USFWS
Jill Leary, LCREP
Mike Karnosh, Grand Ronde
Tribe
Jeremy Buck, USFWS
John Piccininni, BPA
Kevin Masterson, ODEQ
Jim Ruff, NPCC
Mark Siipola, USACE
Larry Caton, ODEQ
Nancy Kohn, Battelle

Robert Anderson, NOAA
Socorro Rodriguez, EPA
Lorraine Edmond, EPA
Agnes Lut, ODEQ
Steve Waste, NPCC
Mary Lou Soscia, EPA
Mike Cox, EPA
James Thomas, Yakama
Nation
Rachel Pecore, Columbia
Riverkeeper
Joanne LaBaw, EPA
Aron Bordic, EI
Elena Nilsen, USGS
Rose Longoria, Yakama
Nation
Joe Rinella, USGS

Don Steffeck, USFWS
Laura Buelow, EPA
John Gear, ORDOE
Tim Sherman, USACE
Steve Sauder, BPA
Keith Seiders, WADOE
Aaron Borisenko, ODEQ
Andrew Kolosseus, WADOE
Chuck Henny, USGS
Tina de la Fuente, Columbia
Riverkeeper
Tom Downey, Siletz Tribe
Linda Tlokasin-Orr, IHS
Greg Pettit, ODEQ
Krista Jones, LCREP
Tracie Nadeau, EPA

Introductions and Welcome

Greg Fuhrer and Mike Cox welcomed everyone to the meeting. Thank you Greg, Jennifer, and Elena for hosting.

Updates

Rachael Pecore of Columbia River Keepers indicated that they have obtained funding from other NGO partners to do some toxic monitoring and would welcome ideas regarding McNary Dam to Willamette reach sampling.

John Gear of Oregon Dept of Energy encouraged participation in scoping of EIS for Black Rock Water Storage Reservoir. The reservoir is located up gradient from Hanford site and he noted the potential effects to groundwater in Hanford Reservation

Mary Lou Soscia, EPA, distributed a handout "Request for Recommendations to Amend the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's *Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program*" (Council Doc. # 2007-17). The NPCC is seeking comments/recommendations on their fish and wildlife program. During this amendment process there is an opportunity for states, tribes, and other partners to recommend a greater emphasis on water quality and toxics issues. The deadline for comments has been extended to April 04, 2008. Please contact Mary Lou for more information.

Presentations (Presentations will be available on the EPA CR Website)

Status of monitoring efforts:

Lorraine Edmond of EPA and Agnes Lut of ODEQ discussed EPA REMAP/RARE-funded monitoring which will commence in the summer of 2008 in the Mid-Columbia

and tributaries. They stressed the need to build on lower Columbia River (LCR) studies and for continued coordinated monitoring in the LCR. They discussed the overall design of the studies which will include assessment of tributary loading, toxics in the water column and fish tissue, and relation to human health.

Jennifer Morace, USGS, discussed a USGS study focused on the Lower Columbia River from Glenn Jackson Bridge to the Beaver Army Terminal. The sampling—which will look at PBDE flame retardants, emerging contaminants, and food web interactions—will include numerous sites and test for a host of contaminants and species as well as continue to expand existing osprey studies.

State of the River Report for Toxics

Mary Lou Soscia, EPA, provided the status on the State of the River Report and along with Greg Fuhrer, USGS, led a discussion on the future “vision” for the Columbia River Basin Toxics Reduction Strategy. Several comments were received and the paper will be revised accordingly.

Mercury contamination in Owyhee and Upper Snake Rivers

Helen Rueda, EPA, discussed mercury deposition in Snake River Basin. She provided background information with examples from several areas of the Snake River and provided an overview of fish tissue data and sources of deposition.

Toxics and Osprey in the Lower Columbia

Chuck Henny, USGS, discussed contaminants in osprey in the Columbia River Basin. He proposed osprey as an ideal sentinel species (e.g., worldwide distribution, piscivorous nature, tolerance), and provided data on increased nesting sites and contaminant information including increased Hg in eggs and reduction in DDT.

Washington Toxics Monitoring: Results from Fish Tissue Sampling in 2004-05

Keith Seiders, WADOE, discussed Monitoring Toxic Contaminants in Washington Freshwater Fish. He provided results of monitoring for several years throughout Washington with emphasis on the Columbia River Basin.

Pollution in People

Renee Hackenmiller-Paradis, Oregon Environmental Council, discussed their recent report on “Pollution in People”. She provided an overview of the testing for several contaminants in 10 Oregonians from different backgrounds. These contaminants included PCBs, organophosphates, phthalates, bisphenol-a, mercury, and PFC. She noted the small sample size limited the interpretation of the exposure pathway but that the study increased public awareness and discussed possible solutions.

Next Steps

Next meeting will be in Hood River, OR, June 10, **Board of Commissioners Meeting Room, 601 State Street.**

- EPA will put summary of meeting and presentations on EPA website.
- EPA will share draft State of the River report once it is ready for review.
- Please provide comments on the Toxics Reduction Strategy “future vision” to Mary Lou by February 22.